

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0590

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 7320

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, IT, UR, XF

SUBJECT: SOVIET VIEWS ON THE ME

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

REF: MOSCOW 2090

1. DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ITALIAN MFA (DUCCI), DURING A ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS, HAD TALKS ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST WITH M.D. SYTENKO ON FRIDAY, MAY 23, SHORTLY AFTER SYTENKO'S RETURN FROM THE VIENNA MEETING. FOLLOWING WERE THE MAIN POINTS SYTENKO MADE DURING THEIR TALK AS GIVEN TO US MAY 26 BY THE ITALIAN POLITICAL COUNSELOR WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING WITH SYTENKO.

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2. TALKS IN VIENNA. SYTENKO SAID NOTHING CONCRETE HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BECAUSE THE AMERICAN REASSESSMENT WAS STILL GOING ON.

3. EUROPE AND THE ME. SYTENKO, IN WHAT THE ITALIAN CALLED A ONE-AND-ONE-HALF HOUR TIRADE, INVEIGHED AGAINST "THOSE WHO DO NOT DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THE AGGRESSOR AND THE VICTIMS OF AGGRESSION." HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, CRITICIZE THE ITALIANS FOR THE EEC'S MAY 11 AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL. (BY CONTRAST, A COUNSELOR OF THE FRENCH EMBASSY TOLD US MAY 26 THAT SYTENKO IN HIS TALK WITH FRENCH MFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR ROUILLON (REFTEL) HAD CALLED THE EEC DECISION "A VERY BAD MOVE" AND HAD BERATED THE EUROPEANS FOR GOING AHEAD WITH THE AGREEMENT.)

4. ARAB POSITIONS. SYTENKO CLAIMED THE ARABS HAVE MADE MAJOR CONCESSIONS. IF THEY HAD TAKEN THE POSITIONS THEY NOW HOLD IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE 1967 WAR, SYTENKO CLAIMED, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO WAR IN 1973. AS THE MAJOR CONCESSIONS SYTENKO LISTED (1) SYRIAN ACCEPTANCE OF UNSC RESOLUTION 338 AND THROUGH IT RESOLUTION 242 AND (2) ARAB, INCLUDING PALESTINIAN, ACCEPTANCE OF ISRAEL. THE ITALIAN SAID SYTENKO DID NOT, HOWEVER, STATE THAT THE ARABS ACCEPTED ISRAEL WITHIN 1967 FRONTIERS. SYTENKO ADDED THAT TIME IS RUNNING SHORT FOR ISRAEL, AND IT IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE DIFFICULT TO GET A SETTLEMENT BASED ON SC RESOLUTION 242. HE SAID BOURGUIBA'S IDEA (U.E., SETTLEMENT BASED ON THE 1947 PARTITION PLAN) IS A VIEW THAT MAY BE SPREADING EVEN WITH THE "MODERATE" ARABS.

5. GENEVA CONFERENCE. SYTENKO SPOKE VERY STRONGLY AGAINST "PARTIAL SETTLEMENTS" AND IN THIS CONTEXT ASKED WHETHER THE U.S. IS REALLY REASSESSING ITS ME POLICY. IF THE IDEA IS TO USE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE FOR PARTIAL SETTLEMENTS, SYTENKO SAID, "THIS WON'T HELP."

6. PALESTINIANS. SYTENKO SAID THE IDEA OF PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE MEPC ON AN EQUAL FOOTING WITH OTHER PARTICIPANTS MEANS THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE

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AT THE FIRST STAGE OF THE CONFERENCE HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE USSR IS UNCERTAIN WHETHER THE PLO WILL EXERCISE THIS RIGHT. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE BOUNDARIES OF A PALESTINIAN STATE, SYTENKO SAID IT COULD BE ON THE WEST BANK AND GAZA AND MAYBE "SOME ARAB STATES" (SIC) COULD CEDE SOME TERRITORY IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH A LINK BETWEEN THE TWO AREAS.

STOESSEL

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